In the claims:

1.   A system for generating a response comprising:

a language analysis module configured to parse a query into elements;

a rules engine coupled to said language analysis module to receive said elements and configured to compare a condition of a rule against said elements, said rule configured to perform an action to retrieve information; and

a response generator coupled to said rules engine and configured to retrieve said information for presentation in a portion of a display that adjusts proportionately to the degree of importance of said information.

2.   The system of claim 1 further comprising a multi-layered concept repository configured to store a plurality of concepts, at least one of said plurality of concepts configurable to relate to a synonymous concept.

3.   The system of claim 2 wherein each of said plurality of concepts is definable as an expression of a regular expression language.

4.   The system of claim 2 further comprising:

content storage for storing said information; and

a semantic indexing engine configured to index said information by one of said plurality of concepts.

5.   The system of claim 4 further comprising a response formatter configured to generate said portion of said display, wherein said portion is adjusted based on a scope of said information.

6.   The system of claim 5 wherein said scope is determined by one of a word, a phrase, a sentence and a document.

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7.   The system of claim 1 wherein said response generator determines the importance of said information based on a quantifiable measure distinguishable from other actions of other rules, where said quantifiable measure is determined by one or more of a relative weight determinator, an accumulator relevancy determinator, a recency module, and a scope-based scorer.

8.   A method for generating a response comprising:

establishing relationships among a concept and other concepts, where at least one of said other concepts is associated with a definition specific to an organization;

creating a semantic index that uses said concept for identifying information;

parsing a query into elements, where at least one of said elements corresponds to said concept;

retrieving units of information using said semantic index; and

generating a plurality of portions of a display, each of which presents information based on the importance of a corresponding unit of said information.

9.   The method of claim 8 further comprising associating said concept with one of a natural language term, an industry-specific term, and an organization-specific term, a part of speech, and one of a rigid phrase, a compositional phrase and an expression.

10.   The method of claim 8 wherein creating said semantic index further comprises:

importing structured and unstructured content;

storing managed answers; and

generating at least one index for retrieving information from either said imported content or said stored managed answers.

11.   The method of claim 8 wherein parsing said query further comprises:

comparing a set of rules against said elements; and

determining that one or more of said elements satisfy a condition of a rule of said set of rules; and

identifying an action associated with said rule.

12.   The method of claim 8 wherein retrieving said units of information further comprises evaluating the importance of each of said units to form said response to said query.

13.   The method of claim 12 wherein the importance of at least one of said units is based on the relevancy of said concept to a document.

14.   The method of claim 8 wherein generating said plurality of portions further comprises scoring various scopes of said units of information.

15.   A computer readable medium for generating a response comprising:
        instructions to establish relationships among a concept and other concepts, where at least one of said other concepts is associated with a definition specific to an organization;
        instructions to create a semantic index that uses said concept for identifying information;
        instructions to parse a query into elements, where at least one of said elements corresponds to said concept;
        instructions to retrieve units of information using said semantic index; and
        instructions to generate a plurality of portions of a display, each of which presents information based on the importance of a corresponding unit of said information.

16.   The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein instructions to create said semantic index further comprises:
        instructions to import structured and unstructured content;
        instructions to store managed answers; and
        instructions to generate at least one index for retrieving information from either said imported content or said stored managed answers.

17.   The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein instructions to parse said query further comprises:
        instructions to compare a set of rules against said elements; and
        instructions to determine that one or more of said elements satisfy a condition of a rule of said set of rules; and

instructions to identify an action associated with said rule.

18.   The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein instructions to retrieve said units of information further comprises evaluating the importance of each of said units to form said response to said query.